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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05932 012131Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
/037 W
----------037032 022305Z /45
R 012103Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6779

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5932

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS AR, PINT
SUBJECT VISIT TO US OF GENERAL LANUSSE

REF: STATE 189699

1. WHILE LANUSSE IS REPORTED TO BE PERSONAL
FRIEND OF VIDELA'S, HE HAS MANY ENEMIES IN THE
ARMY WHO BLAME HIM FOR PERMITTING THE PERONIST
COMEBACK VIA THE 1973 ELECTIONS WITH THE RESULTANT
CAMPORA LAW AMNESTING TERRORIST PRISONERS, ETC.
LANUSSE STILL HAS A FOLLOWING IN CERTAIN SECTORS
OF THE ARMY, HOWEVER, AND IS SEEN BY SOME AS A
POTENTIAL CAUDILLO WHO MAY STILL HAVE A POLITICAL
FUTURE, SPECIFICALLY AS ONE WHO COULD LEAD THE
COUNTRY TOWARD A POLITICAL SOLUTION.

2. LANUSSE IS ESPECIALLY HATED BY RIGHT-WING
NATIONALIST ELEMENTS IN THE MILITARY WHO
ATTEMPTED TO IMPLICATE HIM IN CONNECTION WITH
THE GRAIVER AFFIAR LAST YEAR. THESE ELEMENTS
COULD CAUSE VIDELA TO BECME UNCOMFORTABLE WITH A
LANUSSE VISIT TO THE US,THE HARDLINERS UNDOUBTEDLY WILL PLAY
IT UP AS ANOTHER OSCAR ALENDE AFFAIR PROMOTED BY THE US
TO PRESSURE THE GOA TOWARDS DEMOCRATIC RESTROATION.

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3. IN VIEW OF THE ALENDE DEBACLE AND THE CURRENTLY
BRITTLE ATMOSPHERE IN THE WAKE OF THE EXIM BANK DECISION
AND THE APPROACHING EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE HUMPHREY/
KENNEDY BILL, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO APPROACH THE CASA
ROSADA TO OBTAIN GOA VIEWS ON THE LANUSSE'S PROPOSED VISIT.
HOWEVER, SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONSULT ARGENTINE EMBASSY'S
VIEW IN WASHINGTON SO THAT THE BURDEN OF CONSULTATIONS

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WITH GOA ON THIS ISSUE IS PLACED ON THE ARGENTINE
DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AND IN ORDER TO UNDERLINE THE POINT
THAT LANUSSE IS NOT A USG GRANTEE.

4. IT PROBABLY WILL BE DIFFICULT TO RECEIVE LANUSSE
IN THE DEPARTMENT AT ANYTHING LESS THAN THE ARA
ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL, BUT WE WOULD HOPE THAT THIS
COULD BE DONE WITH AS LITTLE HOOPLA AS IS POSSIBLE.
LANUSSE SHOULD BE RECEIVED WITH THE RESPECT
DUE ANY EX-PRESIDENT ON A PRIVATE VISIT WHO REQUESTS
APPOINTMENTS WITH USG OFFICIALS AND ALSO AS A MAN WHO
MAY STILL HAVE A POLITICAL FUTURE. HOWEVER, ANY
STATEMENT THAT IS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT SOULD CLARIFY
THAT HIS IS A PRIVATE VISIT AND THAT
MEETINGS WITH USG OFFICIALS WERE ARRANGED AT HIS
REQUEST.

5. FYI. ACCORDIG TO UNCONFIRMED PRESS ACCOUNTS, LANUSSE'S
CURRENT TRIP ABORAD BEGAN WITH A VISIT TO ISRAEL AT THE
INVITATION OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. LAST WEEK HE
STOPPED THROUGH PARIS WHERE HE REPORTEDLY MADE A
STATEMENT ADVOCATING A REFERENDUM TO
DECIDE ARGENTINA'S POLITICAL FUTURE. END FYI.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S INFO AS TO WHO IS
SPONSORING THE LANUSSE VISIT TO US.
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CASTRO

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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO US OF GENERAL LANUSSE
TAGS: PINT, AR
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